

Mid-Winter Course in Bird Study Will Open at Museum This Week

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Realizing the difficulty—even with good reference books and field glasses of accurate identification of birds—in the field, and the advantage to all bird-loving people in an opportunity to discuss together much of the interesting material to be found now upon this subject, the Scranton Bird Club invites your attention to a brief course of five midwinter discussions to be held at the Everhart Museum on Saturday afternoon beginning Jan. 19, promptly at 2:30 o'clock. This represents the efforts of the Bird Club to interest others in the valuable study and protection of our beneficial birds. A portion of the time will be given to miscellaneous current events in the bird world, the ever intriguing mysteries of the migration, so soon to follow these meetings, while different species will be discussed at each meeting which will be illustrated by photographs, slides and motion pictures.



The 1935 census, already begun, should be built up materially at these classes, when it is hoped to record all the permanent residents of this vicinity as well as the winter visitors, before the transients and Summer residents return. This course is open to the public, and there is no charge. However, it will be necessary to have a card of admission to be presented at the door. This may be secured upon registration in advance at the Museum. It is advisable to register at once securing your card of admission of which only a limited number will be distributed due to the capacity of the hall. Opportunity will be given to all to present authentic news items for the general information and many will take part in other ways. Miss Eleanor P. Jones and Mrs. J. Wesley McCracken will lead the discussions.

Reports from outlying districts indicate a very definite effort this year

on the part of this community to help in "restoring America to itself." Beginning with our parks, Mr. Kerber, superintendent of parks, is showing excellent cooperation, by already having placed many substantial suet baskets on the trees of Nay Aug Park. This is to be followed by similar operations in all other parks of the city. Of course this is but the beginning of what promises to be the most constructive work accomplished for a long time in an effort to restore our greatly depleted birdlife. This should be followed by the placing of nesting houses and drinking fountains, with the planting of berry-bearing trees, and shrubs suitable for bird food, and the addition of cover and tangles, so necessary in order to attract birds.

In the cemeteries, through the efforts of Harold Jones and a large following of responsible Scouts, suet has been placed for the birds in remote sections. Here in the peace and quiet of these protected areas, what could be more fitting than an abundance of bird life, not only to care for the trees, but to add a sympathetic companionship and comfort to those who visit these places in a meditative and responsive mood?

Reports have reached us this week from Erie, J. E. Perry, that on Dec. 2, large numbers of swans, approximately 120 were found on Presque Isle Bay, while on Oct. 21, John J. Heard, Pittsburgh, reported seeing upwards of 400 swans on a lake twelve miles north of Ligonier. Without a doubt these are a part of the great flocks of Whistling Swans reappearing in British Columbia, a species which seemed on the way to extinction a few years ago as a result of ruthless hunting. Conservation measure introduced by the government seem to have been responsible for the restoration of these graceful birds. Whistling Swans spend their summer in the tundra of northern Canada. In their large nests of grass and moss, on the border of marshes are laid from three to six eggs. When the cygnets are ready to fly, the migration southward begins. This week three reports for the census: Purple Finches, Sparrow Hawk and Screech Owl. Are there any others?